

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/016,498

Applicant(s)

BAYLES ET AL.

Examiner

J. Bret Dennison

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 11/21/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-20.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date attached.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

MARC D. THOMPSON
MARC THOMPSON
PRIMARY EXAMINER

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Micah D. Stolowitz (Reg. No. 32,758) on 6 February 2004.

IN THE CLAIMS

1. A domain name registry system comprising:

a registry database containing a current registration record for a domain name, the current registration record having an expiration date;

a registry management system, having access to the registry database, to delete the current registration record after the expiration date, to issue a public delete notification, and to add a new registration record for the domain name;

a single acquisition database containing an acquisition request from a specific registrar to acquire the domain name as soon as practicable following the expiration date and preceding the public delete notification; and

an acquisition engine to receive from the registry management system a pending delete notification, the pending delete notification preceding the public delete notification, to access the acquisition request from the acquisition database, and to

request the registry management system to add the new registration for the specific registrar before the registry management system purges the desired domain name.

2. The system of claim 1 further comprising an acquisition front end to receive the acquisition request from the specific registrar and to store the acquisition request in the acquisition database.

3. The system of claim 2 wherein the acquisition front end is a Web server, and further comprising a Web page hosted by the Web server to receive the acquisition request from the specific registrar.

4. An integrated domain name acquisition system comprising:

an acquisition database containing an acquisition request from a specific registrar to acquire a domain name as soon as practicable to follow a preceding registration for the domain name;

an acquisition front end system to receive the acquisition request from the specific registrar and to store the acquisition request in the acquisition database; and

an acquisition engine integrated with a registry system to receive from the registry system a pending delete notification for the domain name, the pending delete notification preceding a public delete notification, to access the acquisition request from the acquisition database, and to request acquisition of the domain name for the specific registrar before the registry system purges the desired domain name.

5. The system of claim 4 wherein the acquisition of the domain name is a registration of the domain name.

6. A method for acquiring a soon-to-delete domain name, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving from a registrar a request to acquire a desired domain name;
receiving from a registry a pending delete notification for the desired domain name, the pending delete notification preceding a public delete notification; and
responsive to the received pending delete notification, requesting acquisition of the desired domain name for the registrar before the registry purges the soon-to-delete domain name.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the acquisition is a succeeding registration for the desired domain name.

8. The method of claim 6, wherein the acquisition includes placing the desired domain name on registration hold.

9. A method of domain name acquisition comprising:

receiving from a registrar a request to acquire a desired domain name;
storing the request in a database;

receiving from a registry system a pending delete notification for the desired domain name, the pending delete notification preceding a public delete notification, the pending delete notification being received before the registry system purges the desired domain name;

correlating the pending delete notification to the request stored in the database;
and

requesting acquisition of the desired domain name for the registrar before the registry system purges the desired domain name.

10. The method of claim 9 further comprising the steps of, prior to the requesting acquisition step:

acknowledging to the registry system receipt of the pending delete notice; and
receiving from the registry system notification that the desired domain name has been deleted.

11. A method for domain name management comprising the steps of:

receiving from an interested entity an expression of interest in a currently registered domain name on behalf of a new registrant;
storing the expression of interest;
detecting that the domain name registration has expired; and

prior to deletion of the expired domain name registration from the registry, and
prior to a public delete notification, requesting a new registration of the domain name in
the name of the new registrant to succeed the expired domain name registration.

12. The method of claim 11 and further comprising the step of auctioning the new
registration among interested entities.

13. The method of claim 11 wherein said detecting step comprises receiving a delete
pending notification from the registry.

14. The method of claim 11 wherein the request to monitor the domain name
registration is received from a registrar.

15. The method of claim 11 wherein the request to monitor the domain name
registration is received from a registrar on behalf of its customer.

16. The method of claim 11 wherein the step of requesting a new registration is
triggered by electronic notification from the registry that deletion of the domain name is
pending.

17. A method for domain name management comprising the
steps of:

receiving from an interested entity a request to monitor a domain name registration maintained by a registry;
monitoring a current status of the domain name registration;
detecting that the domain name registration has expired; and
prior to deletion from the registry, and prior to a public delete notification,
requesting a new registration of the domain name to succeed the expired domain name registration.

18. (Previously presented) The method of claim 17 wherein said monitoring the current status of the registration includes establishing a link into the registry.

19. The method of claim 17 wherein said monitoring the current status of the registration includes receiving updates from the registry.

20. The method of claim 17 wherein said monitoring the current status of the registration includes effecting queries into the registry database.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-20 are allowed in view of the Applicant's arguments (See Applicant's Response, filed 11/21/2005, p6, lines 16-28, p7, lines 1-22, p8, lines 13-21, 25-28, p9, lines 18-23, 28-33, p13, last paragraph) and the cited prior art of record. The

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independent claims recite an acquisition system working with a registry, the acquisition system receiving and storing a request made by a registrar to acquire a domain name for registration following the expiration date of the previous registration and preceding deletion of the domain name from the registry, in which the acquisition system receives, from the registry, a notification of the deletion of the domain name before the registry sends out a public delete notification, making the domain name publicly available, which, in addition to the rest of the claim limitations, are distinguished from the prior art. See Instant Specification for Support [see Spec, paragraphs 9, 23-26, 37, 42-45, Fig. 1].

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to J. Bret Dennison whose telephone number is 571-272-3910. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 9am-5:30pm Eastern.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Wiley can be reached on 571-272-3923. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



JBD

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